In the Specification

Preliminary to examination of this application, please amend the specification as follows:

At page 5, amend paragraph [0011] to read:

[0011] The rotation of the inboard barrier plate to/from a horizontal bridging position to the vertical barrier position is accomplished by an actuator link spanning between one or both of the barrier plate side brackets and the push (lower) arm of the articulated lever arm assembly. The push arm of the invention may be ~~, unlike the prior art push arms which are rigid struts, is~~ a telescoping, variable length arm comprising an upper member telescoping over a lower member. The actuator link pivots from the lower portion of the upper member (outer sleeve) of the push arm. Since the actuator link is pivoted to the barrier plate inboard of the push arm pivot, a lever arm exists tending to rotate the barrier plate upon motion of the actuator link.

In the Claims

1. **(Original)** A method for providing access to a vehicle from a platform structure of a wheelchair lift, comprising:

providing a lifting mechanism to raise and lower the platform structure between a ground level position and a transfer level position;

providing a plate pivotally coupled to the inboard end of the platform structure;

providing an articulated lever assembly coupled between a vertical arm of the lifting mechanism and an inboard end of the platform structure;

raising the platform structure with the lifting mechanism to the transfer level position wherein the articulated lever assembly contacts the lifting mechanism; and

moving the plate from a raised safety barrier position to a lowered bridging position extending between the platform structure and the vehicle by the contact of the articulated lever assembly with the lifting mechanism.

2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, further comprising:

lowering the platform structure from the horizontal transfer level position to the ground level position; and

moving the plate from the lowered bridging position to the raised safety barrier position by removing contact between the articulated lever assembly and the lifting mechanism as the platform structure is lowered from the transfer level position to a ground level position.

3. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the plate remains generally in the lowered bridging position as the platform structure is pivoted from the horizontal transfer level position to a vertical stowed position.

4. **(Original)** The wheelchair lift of claim 1, wherein the lifting mechanism comprises a parallelogram structure.

5. **(Original)** A wheelchair lift comprising:

a platform for carrying a passenger;

a lifting mechanism secured at one end to a vehicle and at the other end to the platform adjacent to the inboard end of the platform for moving the platform between a ground level position, a transfer level position and a vertically-stowed position;

a plate pivotally connected to the inboard end of the platform and moveable between a raised barrier position and a lowered bridging position; and

a linkage system extending between the lifting mechanism and the platform for moving the platform from the transfer level position to the vertically-stowed position, the linkage system also being connected to the plate for moving the plate between a raised barrier position and a lowered bridging position.

6. **(New)** The wheelchair lift of claim 5 wherein the lifting mechanism comprises a parallelogram structure.

7. **(New)** The wheelchair lift of claim 5 wherein the linkage system comprises a telescoping member to move the plate between a raised barrier position and a lowered bridging position.

8. **(New)** The wheelchair lift of claim 5 comprising an actuator link pivotally extending between the linkage system and the plate, the actuator link operable to move the plate between a raised barrier position and a lowered bridging position.

9. **(New)** The wheelchair lift of claim 5 wherein the linkage assembly comprises a pair of arms of unequal length.

10. **(New)** The wheelchair lift of claim 9 wherein the longer arm of the pair of arms is a telescoping member.

11. **(New)** The wheelchair lift of claim 5 wherein the linkage system comprises a first arm extending from the lifting mechanism and a second arm extending from the platform.

12. **(New)** The wheelchair lift of claim 11 wherein the second arm is a telescoping member.

13. **(New)** The wheelchair lift of claim 12 wherein telescoping movement of the second arm moves the plate between a raised barrier position and a lowered bridging position.

14. **(New)** The wheelchair lift of claim 13 comprising an actuator link extending between the second arm of the linkage assembly and the plate, the actuator link operable to move the plate between a raised barrier position and a lowered bridging position.

15. **(New)** The wheelchair lift of claim 6 wherein contact between the linkage system and the parallelogram structure causes the linkage system to move the plate between a raised barrier position and a lowered bridging position.